GOVERNOR, MCC CONFER

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Crime Influence Probe Set in La.

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—An investigation of alleged sinister influences on state government by organized crime will be made by the newly created intelligence division of state police, Gov. John J. McKeithen announced.

McKeithen told a press conference following a four-hour meeting with the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans yesterday that if such allegation proved true, steps would be taken to correct them.

The situation involving Judge Malcolm O'Hara also came in for discussion.

CHARGES OF INFLUENCE at all levels of government in Louisiana by organized crime were leveled by Life Magazine. Gov. McKeithen had called the charges completely erroneous Tuesday.

After meeting with the MCC, which supplied the magazine with the basic information for the article of organized crime in Louisiana, the governor said the state would work with the New Orleans group to coordinate information and efforts.

The governor said he is restricting the proposed probe to state government, although the allegations were made against local government as well.

McKeithen said that he had

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no plans to investigate the offices of either Dist. Attys. Jim Garrison of Orleans Parish or Frank Langridge of Jefferson Parish.

"Right now we are going into state government," McKeithen said.

E. C. Upton, president of the MCC, said of the Life article, "We are convinced there is some truth to it. A lot of information in the Life report we have been trying to give for years."

HE CHARGED THAT organized crime has been using its illicit operations to launch into legitimate business. The Cosa Nostra, he said, owns and controls a great many businesses, financial institutions, hotels, motel and tourist operations.

Carlos Marcello, reputed underworld boss, he said, is an "extremely strong" power in the state. But he added, "we can't say he influences state government."

Gov. McKeithen said, "We have felt no influence on state government" by organized crime.

Upton said the Crime Commission is now convinced that "if there is anything wrong, it will be straightened out" under McKeithen's leadership.

"This is the first time that we have been able to reach the ear of a responsible pub-

lic official," Upton said.

HE SAID MAYOR Victor H. Schiro and Garrison have denied the existence of organized crime.

Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the MCC, said the commission has been trying for 14 years to tell the story of organized crime in Louisiana. A good bit of the basis of the Life article, he said, came from the MCC.

He said the MCC is prepared to provide the governor's investigators with specific information on names and places in organized crime.

Kohn said organized crime is involved in gambling and slot machine operations—although not so much as it once was—prostitution and pinball machine payoffs.

The MCC is impressed that the governor wants to do something about the situation, Kohn said. He said the commission is convinced that nothing was supplied to the governor in the past to adequately portray the situation.

"THE OFFICERS OF the MCC have left with a sense of reassurance that we did not have when we came here that the governor is deeply concerned about the accusations and allegations made in the two articles in Life magazine," Kohn said.

McKeithen said the attempted bribe offer alleged in the first article, in which one of his former lieutenants was mentioned, will not be included in the state investigation.

The intelligence division of state police is the alter ego of the investigating staff of the Commission on Labor-Management Disputes.

Members of the Labor-Management Board of Inquiry, including Dean Cecil Morgan of Tulane University, chairman, and Dean Paul Hebert of LSU, vice-chairmen, met with the MCC and the governor for about two hours.

The Labor - Management Commission's general counsel, Camille Gravel, and its chief investigator, Harry Roberts, also were at the meeting.

M'KEITHEN SAID, "We are determined to rid the labor movement and management of crime."

McKeithen said he did not know all of the facts concerning Judge O'Hara and the MCC's request for the judge to resign after his involvement with the efforts to release Teamster boss James Hoffa from jail.

The governor said he will investigate it, if asked, and Upton said the MCC is considering asking the governor to do so.

Another item taken up with the governor by the MCC was the establishment of a long-range planning group on law enforcement and administration of justice.